



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Connecticut Science Center Announces
August is Free Admission Month for Hartford Residents
plus
Special Initiative to Serve Over 800 via City Youth Organizations**

Hartford, CT (August 1, 2011) – The Connecticut Science Center and the City of Hartford are partnering to make science learning and summer fun opportunities available to all residents this August and creating a special science experience through city youth organizations.

Starting today, through the Science Center's Community Access Fund, all city of Hartford residents will have access to free general admission to the Science Center in Downtown Hartford during the month of August, by picking up free Science Center passes at any Hartford Public Library branch.

"My office and the Connecticut Science Center believe very strongly that we must connect all of our residents, especially our youth, with the best assets and opportunities that our community has to offer," said Mayor Pedro E. Segarra. "We hope that many of our residents will be able to take advantage of this exciting, educational and inspiring experience at the Connecticut Science Center during the final month of summer vacation."

Free Science Center admission is only available through passes received at Hartford Public Library branches. Passes will be awarded to residents providing library staff with proof of residency, which may include current driver's license, library card or recently received US mail showing current name and address. Residents will need to show proof of current Hartford residency at the library location and at the Connecticut Science Center. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Movie tickets are not included in the coupon. Certain restrictions apply.

City Youth Science Initiative

The City and the Science Center also announced a new science education initiative to reach young people served by youth organizations in Hartford. The Science Center, with the support of City of Hartford funding, is organizing field trips to the Science Center for about 460 youth through organizations city-wide, and outreach science education programs for approximately 14 youth programs representing another 350 children.

"We are extremely pleased to partner with our home city of Hartford to expand access for our closest neighbors," said Matt Fleury, president & CEO of the Connecticut Science Center. "Through generous donors and a strong partnership with the Hartford Public Schools, we have already served more than

15,000 students through the schools at no charge, and our summer offer for residents and the youth programs outreach will help us extend the Science Center to children in their lives beyond the classroom, too.”

Youth programs wishing to apply for these services are invited to call Amy Sailor, Community Programs Coordinator at the Science Center, at 860.520-2163.

###

About the Connecticut Science Center: The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Visitors experience over 150 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children’s gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store and café, and ongoing events and lectures for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

###

Free Science Center General Admission Coupons are available through August at the following Hartford Public Library locations:

- **500 Main Street: (860) 695-6300**
- **1250 Albany Avenue: (860) 695-7380**
- **281 Barbour Street: (860) 695-7400**
- **649 Blue Hills Ave: (860) 695-7420**
- **30 Campfield Avenue: (860) 695-7440**
- **7 New Park Avenue: (860) 695-7460**
- **460 New Britain Avenue: (860) 695-7480**
- **256 Farmington Avenue: (860) 695-7540**
- **744 Park Street: (860) 695-7500**
- **1750 Main Street: (860) 695-7520**

Media Contacts:

Tracy Shirer (tshirer@ctsciencecenter.org)
860.520.2116
Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Connecticut Science Center

Sarah Barr (barrs001@hartford.gov)
(860) 757-9731
Director, Office of Communications and New Media
City of Hartford